

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1243
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2016
Bio-Metric Document of Seafarers
Godse Shri Hemant Tukaram

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has approved the ratification of an international convention on bio-metric based documents to keep track of seafarers to ward-off potential breach of security and possible terrorist attack through sea routes and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the ratification of International Labour Organization Convention on Seafarers' Identity Documents would benefit about 1.8 lakh Indians; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING
(SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN)

(a) Yes, Madam. Government has approved on 10.06.2015 the ratification of International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention No. 185 on the Seafarers Identity Document (SID). The formal instrument of ratification of this Convention has been deposited with the Director General of International Labour Organisation (ILO) for registration on 09.10.2015 by Ministry of External Affairs. This Convention shall come into force after six months from the date on which its ratification has been registered.

(b)&(c): The biometric based seafarer's identity document will be developed, mainly, to ensure a security system to ward off the potential risk of breach of security and possible terrorist attacks. India's ratification of this Convention will benefit Indian seafarers, who may otherwise find a threat to their job opportunities, in the near future. Around 1.8 lakh seafarers will benefit from the ratification of this Convention.

The proposed SID has provisions for bar coding of the biometrics based identity of seafarers and a centralized data base maintained in the issuing country, which can be accessed globally through an inter-operable and standard biometric template. Indian Seafarer holding SID will be able to have unrestrictive movement in foreign shores during leave, get recognition as identified seafarers in the Global market and will have easy access to better job opportunities in Global maritime sector.
